

REMARKS

Pursuant to the non-final Office Action mailed June 19, 2007, which has been carefully considered, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, each of the issues raised in the non-final Office Action is addressed herein.

Claims 1 and 6-16 are currently pending in this application, of which Claim 1 is an independent claim. By this Amendment, Claims 2-5 and 17-46 have been cancelled, and Claim 1 has been amended, primarily to accept the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. The application as now presented is believed to be in allowable condition.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that at page 12 of the Office Action, Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Accordingly, while not acceding to the propriety of any claim rejections over prior art set forth in the Office Action, Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to accept the subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner so as to expedite the prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of dependent Claims 2 through 5, of which Claim 5 (which depended on Claims 1-4) was indicated as allowable, and Claims 2 through 5 have been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1 and 6-16 are in condition for allowance.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 12, and 44-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,185,426 (*Alperovich*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,283 (*Chang*); Claims 2-3, 8, 11, 13-19, 22, 25-34, 36, and 38-41 were rejected under 35

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U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Alperovich* in view of *Chang* and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,014 (*Walsh*); and Claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 20, 21, 23, 24, 42, and 43 are rejected as being unpatentable over *Alperovich*, *Chang*, and *Walsh* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,674,860 (*Pirila*).

The rejection of Claim 1 and those claims depending therefrom have been rendered moot by the amendments to Claim 1 submitted herewith. These amendments were made solely to expedite prosecution of this application toward allowance by accepting subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicants do not necessarily concede that the foregoing rejections are proper, and reserve the right to file one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the claims prior to the amendments herein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6-16, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, define patentable subject matter in their own right, therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

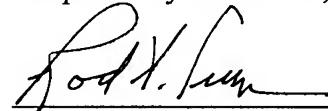
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Conclusion

Entry of the amendments to Claim 1; favorable consideration of Claim 1, as amended; favorable reconsideration of Claims 6-16; and allowance of pending Claims 1 and 6-16 are solicited.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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